

## JOHN S. PARSONS COMMITTS SUICIDE IN NORFOLK OFFICE

State Fish and Game Commissioner Takes His Own Life.

WAS HERE ON VISIT DURING PAST WEEK

His Services Are Commended by Governor Stuart, Who Appointed Him to Office.

### COMMANDED PATROL FLEET

Oyster Navy, Since War Was Declared, Has Been Under Federal Orders.

Commander John S. Parsons, chairman of the Virginia Board of Fisheries and ex-officio State Game Commissioner, committed suicide in his office at Norfolk yesterday, shortly after noon. His body was found by Yeoman Edwin Holland, detailed to duty in the building from which Commander Parsons directed operations of the inland Virginia waters patrol fleet of the United States Navy. A revolver, with one empty chamber, and a note asking that his brother at Annapolis be notified were found beside the body. Death resulted from a bullet wound in the head.

Commander Parsons had been in bad health for several months. A diphtheria recently treated for nervous troubles in the Naval Hospital at Norfolk. His wife, an invalid, is in a Baltimore hospital. Friends believe that worry over the war, combined with his own ill health, were responsible for the mental troubles which resulted in his suicide. He was in Richmond much of last week, leaving Friday for Norfolk. While here he seemed very despondent and talked much to friends of his troubles. He spent most of his time here in his room at Murphy's.

### GOVERNOR STUART

Commander Parsons was appointed head of the State Board of Fisheries by Governor Stuart in 1914, to succeed W. McDonald Lee, of Lancaster. When the Game Department was created by the 1916 Legislature he was made ex-officio game commissioner. In both capacities he served the State well, giving up most of his extensive law practice and all connection with a private oyster concern to devote his time to the service of the State. Governor Stuart announced last night that the services rendered the State by Commander Parsons were of inestimable value, and that in his death Virginia had lost a capable servant.

### HEADED PATROL FLEET

When the Federal government took over the Virginia oyster fleet, directly after declaration of war with Germany, for patrol service in the Chesapeake and other inland waters, Commissioner Parsons was enlisted in the naval reserve with the rank of commander. The fleet comprises a gunboat and several smaller auxiliary craft. These and other boats were put under the direction of Commander Parsons, who directed their operation from his office at Norfolk. He was ranking officer of the naval patrol headquarters in that port.

Commander Parsons was a native of Accomac. He practiced law there for several years, and was prominent in military affairs. He was also head of a large oyster-packing concern, and was well known in Tidewater Virginia. He was forty-six years old. Besides his wife, he leaves several sons, one of whom is a midshipman in the United States Naval Academy.

Commander Parsons's body has been turned over to the Navy Department. Funeral services will be under naval direction. Burial will be made at Accomac, probably to-morrow.

### 3-DAY IS HEATLESS MONDAY

Drugs and Food Stores Will Be Open for Business.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—A more uniform observance to-morrow of the government's second heatless Monday in the East than was reported for the first was predicted to-night by fuel administration officials. A list of exemptions published generally to-day leaves little room, they said, for misinterpretation of the closing order.

The exemptions, as given out last night, show that virtually all business enterprises, except certain specified trades engaged in war work and food production, is expected to close down. Drug stores and food stores alone among the various shops will be permitted to do business, and they must confine themselves to the sale of drugs and foods, except where drug stores sell publications.

## State Official Commits Suicide



JOHN S. PARSONS, State Fish and Game Commissioner.

## INSISTENT NEED FOR HIGHLY TRAINED MEN

Government Sends Out Hurry Call for 500 Ordnance Inspectors.

MACHINISTS WANTED AT ONCE  
Captain Burks Says Supply of Munitions May Be Curtailed if Competent Munition Workers Are Not Secured Immediately.

Once more Virginia, Richmond and every industrial community throughout the entire nation is called upon to perform a patriotic service vital to the conduct of the war. This service consists in filling up the ranks of the non-combatant units behind the fighting line, the forces that supply the munitions of war, without which the main power of Uncle Sam's battalions will be unavailing against the Hun.

Speaking of the coming campaign at the Westmoreland Club last night, Captain Burks said: "Thousands of our boys are on the fighting line in France. Hundreds of thousands more will be there for the big offensive this spring and summer. Supplies of artillery, machine guns, small arms and other equipment must go with them. Mountains of shells and ammunition must be furnished. In ever increasing volume these materials must flow toward the trenches of France and Flanders. If the frightful slaughter which is to be the result of this campaign is to be averted, we must deluge the Prussian lines with an unending flood of lead and steel."

### SKILLED MEN NEEDED

"To accomplish this purpose there must be thousands of workmen in the munition plants and arsenals and thousands of highly skilled supervisors and inspectors to see that the work is not only speeded up, but kept up to the highest standard of accuracy. "Few people appreciate the minute accuracy required in the manufacture of munitions. When you consider that a shell weighing several hundred pounds, discharged at almost incredible velocity, must strike within a range of twenty-five feet across at a distance of five miles from the gun, and that this shell must explode at a particular one-hundredth of a second in order to be effective, it will be seen that making a shell is a good deal like making a fine watch. A mistake of one-thousandth of an inch in the construction of the body of the shell or of the time fuse will make the projectile useless."

"This is why thousands of high-grade inspectors must be secured for the ordnance department at once. "I propose to ask a responsible group of men to select a volunteer field representative to act for the ordnance department in Richmond. It will be the duty of this representative and his staff to find men qualified for this vital service; to induce them to offer their services to the government, and to forward their applications and credentials to Washington. The appointment and assignment of these men will come from Washington."

"As a man of Virginia ancestry, I shall take a special pride in helping to make the record of this State in its response to this call as enviable as it has been to every other summons to service in this frightful war." Captain Burks will remain in Richmond only long enough to secure the appointment of a representative Richmond citizen to act as administrator on behalf of the ordnance department. All details will then be placed in the hands of this administrator, who will conduct the drive, furnish information and promote and receive applications.

### GOVERNOR STUART

GIVES INDOORMENT  
Governor Stuart, to whom the need for prompt and effective action was presented, yesterday gave the following statement to Captain Burks: "Dear Captain Burks:—Responding (Continued on Second Page.)

## CZERNIN FORWARDS PRESIDENT SPEECH

Text Started to America Before Address Is Made, Foreign Minister Says.

### TEUTONIC ALLIANCE BROKEN

Pan-German Papers Fear Austria-Hungary Drawing Away From Germany.

LONDON, January 27.—The Cologne Gazette's correspondent, according to advices reaching here, says that Count Czernin, Austro-Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, informed the Austrian delegations Saturday that the text of his speech on the war aims had already been forwarded to President Wilson before its delivery.

The paper says that the statement has caused an enormous sensation and confirms the belief that Count Czernin's references to the United States were to actual steps taken to bring about an exchange of views between the western powers and Russia and Germany.

Addressing the foreign affairs committee of the Reichstag Saturday, Count Czernin, according to an Amsterdam dispatch to the Central News, referred frankly to the differences in the Austrian and German war aims. He explained that Germany wanted to get her colonies back and obviously could not consent to abandon occupied territories before securing guarantees for restitution of her possessions. Austria, however, was differently situated. She stood everywhere on enemy territory, except in Eastern Galicia.

### AUSTRO-GERMAN ALLIANCE

BROKEN, BELIEVE PAPERS

AMSTERDAM, January 27.—The socialist paper Vorwarts joins in the controversy that has arisen in the German press as to whether Count Czernin's peace invitation to President Wilson is indicative of a break in the Austro-German alliance. Pan-German papers think that it is, but Vorwarts points to the "weighty" phrase in Von Kuehlmann's speech.

"We are in agreement with Count Czernin, as proving contrary to the Pan-German assumption, that 'Count Wilson's fraternal kiss' for President Wilson received the German government's blessing in advance."

Again, considering of German Chancellor von Hertling's ambiguity, Vorwarts outlines its own program based on "the honest right of self-determination for the eastern peoples, including the right to rejoin Russia, the complete reestablishment of the independence of Belgium and the return of occupied French territory on the sole condition that France foregoes her claim on German territory."

### BORAH DEFENDS CONGRESS

Only Divine Administration Could Have Prevented Some Mistakes in Munition Task.

BALTIMORE, January 27.—Senator William E. Borah, of Idaho, in an address to an immense patriotic defense League meeting in the Academy of Music this afternoon vigorously defended President Wilson's administration and Congress against what he termed the "wild criticisms" of some men whom he said could not forget partisanship, but whose real intention was to get at the bottom of some of the mistakes that have been made in the preparations for war. He said: "There are a few men, these cranks, these times who are unable to forget their partisanship, but they must not be taken too seriously, for let me assure you that, as a whole, Congress is straining every nerve and spending days and weeks of energy in the great task of turning a peace-loving nation into a fighting machine, and doing everything in its power to put the lag of you not to judge Congress by the few who criticize. The process of transformation is a big one, and in order for no mistakes to have been made the administration would have to be divine."

### SETTLE PACKERS' DISPUTE

Questions of Hours and Wages Will Be Referred to Federal Arbitrator.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—Settlement of the industrial dispute threatening a strike in the country's ten largest packing-house centers was effected to-day in an agreement providing that there shall be no discrimination against union members, and that questions of hours and wages shall be referred to an arbitrator appointed by the Secretary of Labor.

Suggestions of the union men that the government take over the packing plants for the war are not affected in averting a strike. President Wilson still has the suggestion before him, but in receiving it he said other methods of dealing with the situation would be considered first.

### CAPTURE ESCAPING SAILORS

Eight Enlisted Men Who Saved Way to Freedom Are Taken by Naval Patrol.

NORFOLK, Va., January 27.—Eight enlisted men who some time Saturday night sawed their way to freedom from the brig of the St. Helena training station, were rounded up to-night by the naval patrol. All were serving time for minor offenses.

## GENERAL WOOD HIT IN ARM IN FRANCE

Victim of Accidental Explosion Is Not Seriously Wounded.

### TWO OTHER OFFICERS HURT

Five French Soldiers Killed in Accident, Details of Which Are Lacking.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—Major-General Leonard Wood, in France on an observation tour, was slightly wounded to-day by an accidental explosion, which killed five French soldiers and hurt two other American officers.

Secretary Baker announced the accident in this statement:

"A cable dispatch from the headquarters of General Pershing states that an accidental explosion, occurring to-day, killed five French soldiers and slightly injured Major-General Wood in the arm. Lieutenant-Colonel Charles E. Kilbourne in the eye, and Major Kenyon A. Joyce in the arm."

It is understood the message was brief and gave no further details. General Wood's tour would carry him both to the front and to the American training camps behind the lines, but there is no indication as to where the accident occurred.

All of the divisional commanders have been or will be sent to Europe for brief periods. General Wood, commanding Camp Funston, Kans., went over several weeks ago.

Discussion of war aims—or peace terms—is claiming public attention almost to the total exclusion of military affairs. Active operations, in fact, are in progress nowhere just at present, except in the way of the never-ending campaigning along the various fronts, and the reconnoitering activities that necessarily constantly compel, even in the dead of winter.

Beliefs of the speeches delivered by Count von Hertling, the German imperial Chancellor, and Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, in reply to Premier Lloyd George and President Wilson are plentifully found in the comment of the press at home and abroad, and there seems comparatively little diversity of opinion in the various allied capitals.

The prevailing view in London, as reflected in the press, is that Germany has adopted what amounts to an unimpeachable attitude, desiring to listen to no peace terms but her own, while Austria, although more consistently because of internal conditions, nevertheless is unimpeachably faithful to her German ally.

A representative French view is that the central powers are revealed in the speeches as trying to drive a wedge between the allied nations by attempting to one-up each other in the matter of peace terms. One striking view is that of an important London newspaper, which regards the German speech as a combined diplomatic offensive against the entire allied, with the attack chiefly aimed at President Wilson.

### DR. KUEHLMANN EXPLAINS

AND DEFENDS CENTRAL POWERS

AMSTERDAM, January 27.—Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, the German Secretary for Foreign Affairs, speaking before the main committee of the Reichstag, made a long explanation in defense of the central powers' negotiations with the Russians at Brest-Litovsk. The general tone of Dr. Kuehlmann's speech indicated that there had been strong criticism from German sources, chiefly because the government had not dealt with the Bolsheviks as conquerors dictating to the conquered.

Incidentally, Dr. von Kuehlmann gave an interpretation of the German idea of self-determination for the peoples of Poland, Courland and Lithuania. The plan is not to provide a referendum, but a decision by the representative bodies or the leaders of public opinion. The significant point in this scheme is contained in the fact that the so-called representative of those countries now chosen by the representatives of the central powers.

### FRENCH ARMIES HONOR

GERMAN TRENCHES AND DEPOTS

LONDON, January 27.—Eight thousand kilograms of explosives were dropped by French airmen upon the German industrial cities of Ludwigshafen and Freiburg in the last twenty-four hours, while others bombed the German military works and railway at Thionville. Observation planes penetrated nearly twenty miles behind the German front. Aerial photographers took 200 views.

The Germans on their part sent a number of flyers to drop bombs on the coast bases of Calais and Dunkirk. Berlin reporting "good effect."

### RED CROSS HEARS AUSTRIANS

HOMB ALLIED HOSPITALS

WASHINGTON, January 27.—Bombing of allied hospitals by Austrian aviators in recent raids was reported to Red Cross headquarters here in cablegrams received from Robert Perkins, chairman of the American Relief Commission to Italy. A hospital at Cattel, France, not far from the Italian line, was damaged severely, he said, during a recent attack.

## McAdoo Orders Roads to Drop Lobbyists and Lawyers Not Actually Needed

WASHINGTON, January 27.—(By Associated Press.)—Railroads were ordered by Director-General McAdoo to-night to discontinue the services of legislative and political agents and all attorneys not engaged in the performance of necessary legal work, and to observe strictly the law regulating free passes.

This, the first economy order under government operation of the railroads, will cut off large and well-paid staffs maintained by many companies and eliminate from pay rolls hundreds of lawyers throughout the country who draw annual retainer fees. If it is complied with to the letter, as the director-general's office intends to see that it is, thousands of free passes now held by State, county and municipal officials and others will be canceled.

General order No. 6 is the title of the order sent to officers and directors of all railroads. It follows: "During the period of possession, operation and government control of railroads it is necessary that officers, directors and agents of railroad companies be very careful in the handling of money and in dealing with transportation matters. Any attempt at this time to make any general director or agent a few matters involving the expenditure of money for purposes having no direct relation to transportation which should receive immediate attention, as well as the issuance of free transportation."

"It is, therefore, ordered that the carriers' operating revenues shall not be expended:

"1. For the payment of agents or other persons who are employed in any way to affect legislation.

"2. For the employment of attorneys who are not actually engaged in the performance of necessary legal work for the company.

"3. For the payment of the expenses of persons or agencies constituting associations of carriers unless such association is approved in advance by the director-general.

"4. For any political purpose or to directly or indirectly influence the election of any person or an election affecting any public measure.

### ISSUANCE OF FREE PASSES:

"No passes or free transportation shall be issued by any carrier under Federal control or any official of such carrier unless the issuance of such free transportation is expressly authorized by the act of Congress entitled 'an act to regulate commerce,' approved February 4, 1917, and amendments thereto; and any such passes or free transportation heretofore issued not in conformity with said act must be canceled."

## BAKER SOUNDS WARNING OF SUBMARINE ATTACK

Offensive Will Be Directed Against Our Lines of Communication, Thinks War Secretary.

### GERMANY CALLS IN U-BOATS

Weekly Review Tells of Renewed Activity by Both Sides on Western Front, Especially Near the North Sea.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—(By Associated Press.)—Warning that the Germans are preparing for a great submarine offensive against the American lines of communication with France in connection with the impending Teutonic drive against the west front is given by Secretary Baker in his weekly military review, made public to-night by the War Department.

Recently there has been a marked decrease in the number of allied merchant ships sunk by submarines. The explanation for this is found in the withdrawal of submarines in preparation for the coming thrust on land and sea. The review says:

"As the time draws near when once again the enemy will endeavor to strike a decisive blow in the west, it must be emphasized that he will not be content with mere military operations on a large scale."

"During the past fortnight enemy submarines have been recalled to home ports to be refitted, and the most powerful submarine offensive hitherto undertaken may be expected to be launched against our lines of communication with France, to interrupt the steady flow of men and munitions for our own armies and food supplies for our allies."

"During the period under review, renewed activity along the entire western front is noted."

"The region bordering the North Sea has once again become the scene of severe fighting."

"A carefully co-ordinated operation, undertaken by British monitors, acting in concert with land batteries in the area north of Ypres, subjected the German defenses of Ostend and surrounding country to a severe bombardment."

### GERMANS ATTACK

BRITISH IN BELGIUM

"No infantry action was attempted in this sector by the British, but later in the week the Germans reacted sharply, and directed a strong assault against the short sector of the line in the dune area which fringes the coast in the vicinity of Nieuport. This attack, which must be considered something more than a simple raid, broke into the French lines, and for a brief period, the enemy detachments were able to hold their ground in the advanced French outposts. The French speedily brought up fresh forces, drove out the enemy and were able to re-establish themselves in their former positions without difficulty."

"In the Italian theater the importance of the successful French assault in the region of the Monte Tonba three weeks ago is proven by the retreat of the enemy in this area."

### AUSTRIANS RETIRE NORTH

OF MONTE TOMBA

"The enemy has abandoned an extensive tract of terrain north of the Monte Tomba extending to the Pave. The Austrian lines now rest on the Monte Spinocino."

"It would appear that the enemy has for the time being abandoned his attempt to break through this channel to the plain."

"The Austrians, while still strong in this sector, nevertheless no longer directly threaten the key positions of the Italian line. Increasing liveliness of enemy artillery in the Val Lagarina is recorded. It is apparent that the Austrians are carrying out their plans of shifting their center of attack further to the west."

"The Val Lagarina offers peculiar attraction for an invasion of Italy. It is a classic path of invaders, coming from the north. We may expect that should the opportunity seem favorable the enemy may attempt an operation in this area."

### INCREASING UNEASINESS

AMONG SLAVS OF AUSTRIA  
Reports reach us of the increasing restiveness of the Slav population of (Continued on Second Page.)

## KAISER'S PEOPLE STILL EAGER FOR WAR'S CESSATION

Field Marshal Hindenburg and Von Ludendorff Talk of Retiring.

### MILITANTS CRITICIZE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH

Von Hertling Too Evasive to Satisfy Frankfurter Zeitung.

### LIKE VICTORY FOR ENEMY

News That Leads Past Censors Indicates Much Dissatisfaction in Kaiserland.

LONDON, January 27.—What news has been permitted to pass the German censor indicates that a practical hornet's nest has again been stirred up in Germany. A dispatch from Zurich to the Exchange Telegraph Company quoted the Berlin correspondent of the Frankfurter Zeitung as saying that the Pan-Germans are "kicking up a tremendous row" and declaring that Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General von Ludendorff, dissatisfied with Chancellor Hertling's speech before the main committee of the Reichstag, are again talking of retiring.

Emperor William himself has not been spared, the Deutsche Tages-Zeitung styling him the "present representative" of the house of Hohenzollern, probably alluding to show by a parallel between the Emperor and the crown prince that the annexationists cherish the latter as the savior of Germany at the last moment from "sinking in the abyss" by four men—Dr. von Kuehlmann (German Foreign Secretary), Count von Hertling (imperial Chancellor), Count Czernin (Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister) and Count von Roeder (German Secretary of the Treasury).

The newspaper adds that King Ludwig of Bavaria already has made representations to Emperor William regarding the political situation which has arisen.

The Neue Nachrichten, of Berlin, says Chancellor von Hertling could not sum up courage to act, and is following the example of his predecessor, Von Bethmann-Hollweg, in avoiding definite decisions.

The Deutsche Zeitung declares the Chancellor's speech is equivalent to a battle won by the enemy.

Commenting on the election at Bautzen-Kamenz, Saxony, in which the Socialist candidate received 9,561 votes to 8,753 polled by his Conservative opponent, the Vorwarts, of Berlin, jubilantly asserts:

"The victory is a victory for peace by arrangement."

The Frankfurter Zeitung, according to the Zurich correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company, reproaches Chancellor von Hertling for a lack of clearness, and emphasizes the fact that the agitation of the Pan-Germans against Count Czernin is equally directed against the Austro-Hungarian people.

In Austria there is a notable lack of comment on the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister's address to the Reichstag, possibly indicating that the government censors are holding back expressions of opinion by a majority of the newspapers, which, gauged by previous utterances, would be favorable to peace and antagonistic to the German viewpoint as set forth by Count von Hertling.

### HEADQUARTERS IN ATLANTA

Regional Director Markham Will Have Charge of Railroads in the Southern States.

ATLANTA, January 27.—C. H. Markham, president of the Illinois Central Railroad, and regional director of railroads for the Southern district, arrived here late to-day to establish his offices. Mr. Markham was appointed by Director-General of Railroad McAdoo.

The district over which Mr. Markham will undertake to supervise general transportation problems includes the railroads south of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers and east of the Mississippi River, except the Chesapeake and Ohio and Norfolk and Western and Virginia Railways. He will also have charge of the roads in Illinois and Indiana extending into these States from points south of the Ohio River.

### COLD WAVE COMING

Weather Bureau Says It Will Follow To-Day's Rain or Snow.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, January 27.—A cold wave throughout the Southeast that will reach the coast of Northern Florida by Tuesday was forecast to-night by the Weather Bureau. The cold wave will be preceded by rain or snow Monday in the East Gulf States, and rain in the South Atlantic States. Fair weather will come with the lowering temperature of Tuesday.

Much colder weather already is felt in the West Gulf States and Western Tennessee, and low temperatures are general east of the Rocky Mountains.

### Much Smallpox in New York State.

ALBANY, N. Y., January 27.—Smallpox is unusually prevalent in the State. Dr. Herman M. Biggs, State Commissioner of Health, to-night ordered general vaccination against the disease in the affected districts.